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THE CLAIMS:

Please consider the claims as follows:

1.   (Currently amended) A digital message from a transport stream generator to a terminal, the digital message comprising:

a list of demand-cast streams that are available in a transport stream being transmitted from the transport stream generator, each of said demand-cast streams comprising ~~imagery-associated with~~ a respective program guide page; and

a different demand-cast stream added to said list in response to a request by said terminal, said different demand-cast stream being accessible from said list as long as at least one other terminal is associated with said different demand-cast stream.

2.   (Original) The digital message of claim 1, further comprising:

a digital address for the transport stream generator; and

an identifier for a multiplexer channel within the transport stream generator.

3.   (Original) The digital message of claim 1, wherein the digital message comprises a table that is communicated in a private section of a transport stream.

4.   (Original) The digital message of claim 3, further comprising a table version number which is incremented when the digital message changes.

5.   (Currently amended) A method for communicating from a transport stream generator to a terminal, the method comprising:

sending, to the terminal, a list of demand-cast streams that are available in a transport stream being transmitted from the transport stream generator, each of said demand-cast streams comprising ~~imagery-associated with~~ a respective program guide page, wherein said list comprises a different demand-cast stream requested by the terminal, said different demand-cast stream being accessible from said list as long as one other terminal is associated with said different demand-cast stream.

6.   (Currently amended) A method for communicating from a terminal to a session manager, the method comprising:

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sending to the session manager an acquisition message when the terminal acquires a demand-cast stream that is available for association of said terminal with said demand-cast stream by said session manager, said demand-cast stream comprising ~~imagery associated with~~ a program guide page;

sending, to the session manager, a release message when the terminal releases the demand-cast stream for dis[-]association of said terminal with said demand-cast stream by said session manager, and determination by said session manager whether there are other terminals associated with said data stream; and

sending to the session manager a request message when the terminal needs to acquire a demand-cast stream that is unavailable.

7.   (Currently amended) A method for two-way communications between a session manager and a transport stream generator, the method comprising:

sending, to the transport stream generator, a stream released message when there are no longer any terminals acquiring a demand-cast stream comprising ~~imagery associated with~~ a program guide page; and

sending, to the transport stream generator, a stream ~~requested~~ <u>request</u> message when a terminal requests a demand-cast stream that is not currently provided by the transport stream generator, <u>said message</u> for acquiring the demand-cast stream for the terminal, <u>and</u> associating the terminal[, and] <u>along with</u> other terminals that request the demand-cast stream[,] with the demand-cast stream.

8.   (Original) The method of claim 7, further comprising:

sending a stream released acknowledgement message from the transport stream generator to the session manager in response to receiving the stream release message; and

sending a stream requested acknowledgement message from the transport stream generator to the session manager in response to receiving the stream requested message.

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